Docket No. 4296-144 US

The undertifies that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as prepaid first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 29, 2006.

Diane Dunn McKay, Esq.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Customer No. HIRAO et al. : 26817

Serial No. 09/919,024 : Group Art Unit: 1625

Filed: July 31, 2001 : Examiner: OH, Taylor Victor

Title: METHOD FOR STARTING UP : Confirmation No. 3715

REACTOR

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Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

This response is submitted in response to the Office Action dated December 29, 2005.